ISOLATABLE, WATER SOLUBLE, AND HYDROLYTICALLY STABLE ACTIVE SULFONES OF POLY(ETHYLENE GLYCOL) AND RELATED POLYMERS FOR MODIFICATION OF SURFACES AND MOLECULES

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A poly(ethylene glycol) derivative is disclosed that is activated with a sulfone moiety for selective attachment to thiol moieties on molecules and surfaces. The activated PEG is water soluble, hydrolytically stable for extended periods, and forms hydrolytically stable linkages with thiol moieties. The linkages generally are not reversible in reducing environments. The PEG derivative is useful for modifying the characteristics of substances including modifying biologically active molecules and surfaces for biocompatibility. Methods for synthesizing the active PEG and for preparing conjugates of the active PEG and other substances, including biologically active substances, are also disclosed.

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